

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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DOUGLAS J. HORN and CINDY HARP-HORN,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

Civil Action No.
15-cv-701 FPG/MJR

MEDICAL MARIJUANA, INC., DIXIE ELIXIRS
AND EDIBLES, RED DICE HOLDINGS, LLC and
DIXIE BOTANICALS,

Defendants.
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805 Third Avenue
New York, New York

December 12, 2017
10:06 A.M.

EXAMINATION BEFORE TRIAL OF DR. CINDY ORSER,
an Expert Witness appearing on behalf of the
Defendants herein, taken pursuant to Notice, and
held at the above time and place before Terri
Fudens, a Stenotype Reporter and Notary Public of
the State of New York.

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2 the article. It's the second page of the exhibit,
3 but it's page 9 of the article under the heading
4 the major plant Cannabinoids, do you see that?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And the sentence says
7 tetrahydrocannabinol, otherwise known as THC. I
8 should say THC is in parentheses, is a powerful
9 psychoactive agent, analgesic, muscle relaxant,
10 antispasmodic, neuroprotective antioxidant that
11 delivers 20 times the anti-inflammatory power of
12 aspirin and twice the power of Hydrocortisone.

13 Do you see that paragraph?

14 A Yes.

15 Q THC is a wonder drug; isn't it?

16 MR. SHEPS: Objection as to
17 form.

18 Q Can you answer the question?

19 A It's pretty amazing.

20 Q Did you ever describe marijuana as a
21 wonder drug?

22 A No.

23 Q Are you an advocate of keeping THC in
24 formulated cannabis products?

25 A Yes.

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2 Q Why?

3 A Well, to the best of our knowledge,
4 THC is a key contributor to the effectiveness of
5 cannabis. So removing THC from cannabis per se
6 wouldn't make sense.

7 Q Is it fair to say that a product, and
8 I mean a formulated product, we're talking about a
9 formulated product in this case, would be
10 ineffective without any THC?

11 A No.

12 Q What then makes a product effective
13 without THC? What component of a formulated
14 Medical Marijuana product would make it effective
15 without THC?

16 A CBD.

17 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

18 Q Okay. CBD is not a Schedule 1 drug;
19 correct?

20 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

21 A I don't believe so.

22 Q Are you aware of the Schedule 1
23 substances?

24 A I think there's three.

25 Q There are three in your line of work,

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2 allowed is what?

3 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

4 A Less than .3 percent.

5 Q Where is that standard from?

6 A Before 2014, I'm not sure.

7 Q Less than .3 percent only came to be
8 a requirement post 2014?

9 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

10 A I'm associating it with the Farm
11 Bill, but that might not be accurate.

12 Q Do you know the original source of
13 that .3 threshold that you mentioned?

14 A I don't.

15 Q What does that .3 threshold apply to
16 exactly, levels of what in what?

17 A .3 percent of THC.

18 Q In what?

19 A In the raw -- the raw plant, the
20 extracted plant. Whatever the hemp product is.

21 Q Well, is it the raw hemp plant, or is
22 it some other product?

23 A Well, people aren't going to import
24 raw hemp. They're going to be importing extract.

25 Q Well, didn't this paragraph suggest

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2 so I don't really know if they're related.

3 Q So this product that -- this was one
4 of the things that -- these four pages were what
5 you reviewed as a basis for your opinions in your
6 report; correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Who provided you these?

9 A It was in the Messner Reeves
10 documents.

11 Q These are not specific as to a lot of
12 the product?

13 A Correct.

14 Q So as I think you just stated, these
15 do not correspond to the product that Mr. Horn
16 says that he took between October 1 and October 9,
17 2012; right?

18 A Correct.

19 Q Would it have been useful to you to
20 get the Certificates of Analysis that did apply to
21 that particular product?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Did you ask for those particular
24 Certificates of Analysis?

25 A Apparently they don't exist.

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2 Analysis in front of you were a representative --
3 were as to a representative sample of that which
4 was on the market on October 1, 2012?

5 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

6 MR. BORON: Objection as to
7 form.

8 A I don't know.

9 Q So we don't even know if what was
10 tested here on these Certificates of Analysis was
11 even a representative sample; correct?

12 A Correct.

13 MR. BORON: Objection as to
14 form.

15 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

16 Q I guess the question is then why do
17 you think these would be useful in determining the
18 THC content of the Dixie Elixir product at issue
19 here?

20 A I found this relevant because it
21 demonstrates that Dixie was complying with the
22 requirements in the State of Colorado, that their
23 products are below the .3 percent THC.

24 Q That .3 percent is a Colorado
25 threshold?

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2 A It's Colorado, but it's also the Farm
3 Bill; right? But it is Colorado.

4 Q Back in 2012, the Farm Bill didn't
5 apply; right?

6 A Right.

7 Q So back in 2012, was .3 percent a
8 state legal limit for THC in Colorado?

9 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

10 A That was my assumption.

11 Q We had to get the .3 percent from
12 somewhere. It's not your testimony that it came
13 from the Controlled Substances Act; right?

14 MR. BORON: Objection as to
15 form.

16 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

17 A I can't clarify that without looking
18 at the document.

19 Q To your knowledge, in 2012, say in
20 the month of October of 2012, there was no maximum
21 legal limit for THC in the State of New York;
22 correct?

23 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

24 A I don't know.

25 Q Do you have an idea of whether -- if

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2 the reason for you not having the specific
3 Certificates of Analysis had anything to do with
4 CannLabs' closure as a business?

5 MR. BORON: Objection to form.

6 A I can't say.

7 Q As you sit here today, you don't know
8 where CannLabs records would be held?

9 A I don't know.

10 Q Do you think that Jennifer Murray
11 would be able to tell me?

12 MR. BORON: Objection to the
13 form.

14 A I don't know.

15 Q Do you have any reason to believe
16 with your testimony as to the relevance of this
17 that this can be relied upon as an accurate
18 measure of THC in the product of October 1, 2012?

19 MR. BORON: Objection as to
20 form.

21 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

22 A I can't really say that either.

23 Q Okay. What are batch records as
24 compared to Certificate of Analysis?

25 A So a batch record would be for

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2 whatever the batch size is, whatever that unit is.

3 So batch is -- usually the cured flower is a

4 batch, or a bulk extraction is a batch. This is a
5 finished product.

6 Q Would there have been batch records
7 with respect to both the product that was tested
8 on October 16 and the one that was tested back on
9 October 1, 2012?

10 A That's a question for CannLabs and
11 Dixie. I don't know the answer.

12 Q Is that something that you would have
13 liked to have seen for this report?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Did you ask them for that?

16 MR. BORON: Objection as to
17 form.

18 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

19 A I did not.

20 Q To clarify, the batch records have to
21 do with the quantity of the sample that's provided
22 to make these Certificates of Analysis; is that a
23 proper statement?

24 A It's just upstream of a finished
25 product. So, you know, if you're Stouffer and

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2 you're manufacturing frozen lasagna, first you
3 have to cook the noodles, right, and then you have
4 to make the sauce. Then you have your final
5 product, which is the lasagna.

6 Q Gotcha. But batch records don't talk
7 about THC, right, to your knowledge?

8 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

9 A To my knowledge for them, I don't
10 know.

11 Q Did you at all find it unusual that
12 they gave you these Certificates of Analysis for a
13 different product?

14 A Well, yes.

15 MR. BORON: Objection as to
16 form.

17 Q Okay. Looking at the actual face of
18 these documents, if you would, the first page of
19 Graham 13, Graham Exhibit 13, does show what you
20 stated as the maximum legal limit for THC --
21 excuse me, to .3 percent, 0.3 percent?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And next to it it says asterisk,
24 undetectable, and the asterisk seems to refer to
25 the asterisk explanation underneath. It says:

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2 .05 and .04 are less than .3; correct?

3 A Correct.

4 Q However, those numbers indicate some
5 quantity of THC; right?

6 A Detectable, even though right here
7 they say if it's below .1, it's not detectable,
8 even though they're reporting it later.

9 Q When you say reporting it later, are
10 you talking about the .05 percent?

11 A On the first page it says
12 undetectable. It defines undetectable as below
13 0.1, but yet on the last two pages, they're
14 reporting a value of less than .1. The .04 and
15 .05 percent.

16 Q So there is, at least with respect to
17 the .05, a detectable amount of THC; correct?

18 MR. BORON: Objection as to
19 form.

20 A It's being reported.

21 Q And it doesn't say undetectable
22 there; right?

23 A Right.

24 Q So that is some quantity of THC in at
25 least these Certificates of Analysis?

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2 industrial hemp, that this was the final
3 formulated product?

4 MR. BORON: Objection to form.

5 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

6 A It says 500 milligrams. It gives a
7 sample size. I'm assuming it was the formulated
8 product.

9 Q Were you ever supplied the product
10 from Dixie or Medical Marijuana or anybody?

11 A No.

12 Q Okay. Moving on to page 4 of your
13 report.

14 MR. SHEPS: Can we take a brief
15 break?

16 MR. BENJAMIN: Okay.

17 (At this time, a brief recess
18 was taken.)

19 MR. SHEPS: I just want to
20 clarify something for the record.
21 Jeff, we had spoken just a moment ago
22 about the exhibit marked as Orser D
23 which was an internal chain of
24 custody with an order ID 281201415
25 dated October 29, 2012.

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2 together; right?

3 A Yes.

4 Q What state are you talking about
5 there?

6 A Colorado.

7 Q And because that's the state where we
8 believe the product was manufactured; correct?

9 A Correct.

10 Q You're saying that there's also a
11 federal limit of the .3 percent. You see that
12 there?

13 A Yes.

14 Q As you sit here today, you don't know
15 the source of that maximum threshold for the THC
16 guideline?

17 A Not in 2012.

18 Q But in 2014, it was the Farm Bill?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And in that statement, implicit in
21 that statement, because you haven't stated it
22 specifically, you're applying that .3 percent
23 threshold to the final formulated Dixie product at
24 issue here?

25 A Yes.

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2 form. What numbers?

3 MR. BENJAMIN: I just stated
4 them. 170 as opposed to 500 in the
5 Certificates of Analysis.

6 MR. BORON: 500 what?

7 MR. BENJAMIN: 500 parts per
8 million.

9 THE WITNESS: .05.

10 MR. BENJAMIN: That's the .05
11 number.

12 Q Given that, given what evidence of
13 chain of custody are there or adulteration issues
14 is there with that kind of ratio?

15 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

16 MR. BORON: Objection as to
17 form.

18 A It's just the comparability. These
19 aren't C of As for the product Mr. Horn took.
20 We've never seen the product Mr. Horn took. The
21 product he took was never tested. This is another
22 version of the product at a later date. We don't
23 know if they changed, how they did anything.
24 There's a degree of uncertainty here.

25 Q You mentioned -- do you feel that the

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2 A Yes.

3 Q Now I submit to you that HempMeds PX
4 has been stated to be the company that was
5 offering the Dixie Botanicals brand. Pursuant to
6 a letter that the Horns actually received.

7 But looking simply at the information
8 in that frequently asked question, that is
9 actually an FAQ with respect to workplace drug
10 screening; correct?

11 A Yes.

12 Q If I told you that the Dixie
13 Botanical FAQs have changed over the years to
14 include that, that language, would that indicate
15 to you that Dixie, and here HempMeds, was aware
16 that THC produced -- that THC was in their product
17 and produced positive test results?

18 MR. BORON: Objection to form.

19 MR. SHEPS: Objection.

20 A I would interpret this that they knew
21 there could be some THC, but they were making
22 efforts to have THC free products.

23 Q As of the date of the posting of
24 those FAQs; correct?

25 MR. BORON: Objection as to